



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## Sanctuary Office Report



Volume 2, Number 3

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: MARCH 21, 2005 TO MAY 16, 2005

### ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 5,322 square nautical miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS

#### Preserve America Presidential Awards

On May 2, staff for the NOAA Preserve America Initiative attended the 2nd Annual Preserve America Presidential Awards ceremony at the White House in the Rose Garden. Mrs. Laura Bush is Honorary Chair of the Preserve America initiative. Both she and President Bush made remarks at the ceremony. The Preserve America Presidential Awards are given to organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals for exemplary accomplishments in the sustainable use and preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets; demonstrated commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's cultural or natural heritage assets; the integration of these assets into contemporary community life; and a combination of innovative, creative, and responsible approaches to showcasing historic resources in communities. The recipients are chosen

through a national competition administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in cooperation with the Executive Office of the President, and other government offices and programs. NOAA participated as a reviewer in the first tier of the review process.

#### Settlement Negotiations on Improper Installation of Fiber Optic Cable Stalls

Settlement negotiations with Pacific Crossing, Ltd. and Tyco Submarine to resolve outstanding issues related to the improper installation in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary of a fiber optic cable hit a snag when Tyco informed NOAA that they would only financially support removal of the cable, as opposed to removal and reinstallation as proposed by Pacific Crossing, Ltd. Under terms of a sanctuary and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers permit, both parties are liable; however Pacific Crossing, Ltd. is in bankruptcy and its ability to support remediation costs is reportedly very limited. NOAA and Department of Justice attorneys and staff will continue to pursue the issue to seek a mutually acceptable outcome.

#### Aquarium of the Pacific Unveils New Exhibit, Whales: A Journey of Giants

On May 14, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach California, hosted a black-tie event to recognize individuals and organizations that have taken leadership roles in protecting the environment. Those honored with awards this year were a diverse group. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the Aquarium's new exhibit, Whales: A Journey of Giants. The exhibit is a multi-media experience that conveys the story of Pacific whales through a projection of whale sounds and film footage in the Great Hall of the Aquarium. NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program has supported this exhibit through funding, expert contacts, content development, and general logistical support, and is prominently featured in the exhibit. The Aquarium hosted a table for the National Marine Sanctuary Program in honor of the program's contribution to the exhibit. The director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, Dan Basta attended, as did Holly Price representing the MBNMS. A press event will take place on May 26.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

### Channel Islands NMS

On April 11, *R/V Shearwater* headed out to the East End of Anacapa Island, where SCUBA divers and scientists from the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) filmed the deployment of an acoustic array that will help to monitor the movements of certain fish species within the region. The *Shearwater* also completed a 3-day project where scientists worked throughout the day looking for Xantu's Murrelet nests. Although they surveyed both the north and south sides of Anacapa Island, they found just one nest, and feel that their findings might be an indication that this could be a late breeding season. In their efforts to assess the population trends of this small seabird over time, the scientists spent two nights catching and banding individual birds, and located 2 individuals who had been banded during previous seasons.

### Gulf of the Farallones NMS

On April 22, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer and Representative Lynn Woolsey (both D-CA) introduced legislation to extend the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Senator Dianne Feinstein and all Democratic members of the California House Delegation signed on as original cosponsors. The Boxer-Woolsey National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Modification and Protection Act would expand the boundaries of the two existing National Marine Sanctuaries to protect the entire Sonoma Coast, including the Russian and Gualala River estuaries and Bodega Canyon, from off-shore oil drilling.

### Fagatele Bay NMS

More than a hundred science club students from Aua elementary school gathered together with parents, teachers and Le Tausagi (local environment educators) members to witness the closing of the club's science programs throughout the year. The programs included the Save-A-Beach project sponsored by the Fagatele Bay NMS. The morning started off with a parade by the school around the village, with banners of the different programs they participated in throughout the school year, then followed by skits and poems about the importance of our coral reefs and the environment in general. Ms Amituanai of Fagatele Bay NMS was asked to present the awards to the students. Parents joined the different representatives from the various environment agencies in commending the students for a job well done.

### Florida Keys NMS

Safe Sanctuaries 2005 took place on April 19-21 in the Florida Keys with over 140 people from NOAA, the United States Coast Guard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Approximately 30-40 additional people participated offsite in Silver Spring, Maryland, Seattle Washington, and several Florida locations. Despite high winds all field operations were successful and over 2700 drift cards were deployed representing two different components of the hypothetical oil spill. A range of real-time ocean observations including real-time weather, ocean currents, bathymetry, high-frequency radar and aerial observations were useful in providing additional data for initializing the Hazmat trajectory models. Press coverage included local print (several papers), radio and TV.

### Flower Garden Banks NMS

On April 19, Dr. Richard Spinrad issued the formal determination in response to appeals filed by W&T Offshore, Inc. related to the NOAA Authorization (FGBNMS-2003-009) to construct a natural gas pipeline within a portion of the Flower Garden Banks NMS. With two minor exceptions, the finding determined that the FGBNMS has sufficient authority to place substantive conditions on the construction and operation of the pipeline within the sanctuary, and rejected W&T's challenges to the authorization and the conditions imposed therein. W&T Offshore, Inc. proposed to construct a pipeline to transport material derived from a subsea wellhead outside the boundary of the sanctuary to their platform located inside the boundary of the East Flower Garden Bank. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) issued a permit for this activity. After review and consultation with MMS, the FGBNMS issued an authorization of the MMS permit which contained a number of additional conditions, including a provision that any non-product material (i.e. produced water or other substances) associated with the pipeline could not be discharged within the boundary of the sanctuary. W&T appealed the authorization claiming that they had exclusive rights to develop and produce oil and gas in this area, and that the FGBNMS did not have the authority to condition an MMS approval. Upon this determination of Dr. Spinrad, W&T has exhausted their administrative appeal options.

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS**

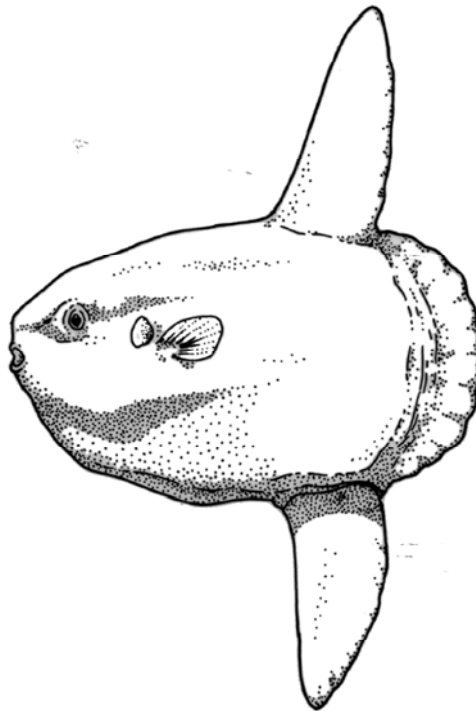
Christine Brammer, Oahu Programs Coordinator, attended a meeting with Cox Radio, Inc. to discuss future collaborative opportunities. Cox Radio owns 2 AM and 4 FM stations in Hawaii, including KCCN, KINE, KRTR, and KPHW. NOAA Public Affairs Representative, Delores Clark, coordinated the meeting, which included representatives from each of the NOAA offices in Hawaii. Cox Radio is interested in working with NOAA to spread important messages to the public. At this stage, each agency has been invited to pursue the relationship further on their own and at some point a larger scale effort related to all of NOAA in Hawaii may be considered.

### **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve**

NWHI research coordinator Randy Kosaki, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) Director Jo-Ann Leong, and regional coordinator Allen Tom briefed Senator Daniel Inouye on the current status of sanctuary designation activities, the science supporting sanctuary designation, and the nature of research to be conducted under the recently signed NMSP-HIMB MOU. The Senator was thanked for his support of the NWHI designation process and for the resources he has made available to do research in support of sanctuary designation, including the conversion of NOAA ship HI IALAKAI and support for the HIMB MOU. Similar briefings, also attended by Ed Lindelof, were held with staff of Senator Daniel Akaka and Rep. Ed Case. For more information contact Randy Kosaki, [Randall.Kosaki@noaa.gov](mailto:Randall.Kosaki@noaa.gov)

### **Olympic Coast NMS**

On April 23, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff joined approximately 400 volunteers for the 6th annual Olympic Coast Beach Cleanup during which many tons of marine debris were removed from the shoreline of the sanctuary and adjacent areas. The project was a collaboration between Olympic National Park, Olympic Coast Alliance, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Surfrider Foundation, and Olympic Audubon, led by volunteer extraordinaire Jan Klippert. Greg McCormack, Education Specialist, gave four interpretive talks and guided walks at the Olympic National Park's Kalaloch Campground and Lodge, as well as assisting in beach cleanup. Liam Antrim, Resource Protection Specialist, manned the volunteer registration station and also helped remove debris from the beach. Barb Blackie, Research Specialist, and Lindsey Milonas, Database coordinator, joined in the cleanup coordinated by the Makah Indian Nation on reservation lands, helping to staff a volunteer greeting station and assisting with debris removal.





## MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



### JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The JMPR team is currently preparing a package of materials for the NOAA clearance process. TetraTech, the contractor preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), submitted an initial draft which is currently being reviewed by JMPR staff. The DEIS is an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with any regulatory action that is proposed as part of the JMPR. This is considered a significant milestone and once ready will be significant component in the clearance package. This document, along with the Draft Management Plans for the MBNMS, CBNMS, and GFNMS, will then be reviewed by National Marine Sanctuary Program Leadership, NOAA General Counsel, and then leadership in the National Ocean Service, NOAA, before being cleared by the Office of Management and Budget prior to public release. This clearance process is expected to take approximately five months.

MBNMS staff is also working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) in their review of a proposed fishing regulation to restrict disturbance of the Davidson Seamount. At its April meeting in Tacoma, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) supported the proposed amendments to the Designation Document to include the Davidson Seamount within the boundaries of the MBNMS. The PFMC also supported the proposed restriction of fishing activity below 3000 feet in the Davidson Seamount area, but stated it believes the MBNMS goals should be achieved under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) by amending the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan as part of the Essential Fish Habitat designation process. The PFMC also supported the amendment to the MBNMS designation document to add the authority to regulate the release of introduced species.

If you have questions regarding the management plan review, please contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217 or [sean.morton@noaa.gov](mailto:sean.morton@noaa.gov).

### MANAGEMENT

The MBNMS hosted a presentation on March 16 by Jon Day from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to various members of the Advisory Council, MPA workgroup and other interested parties. The presentation focused on planning, science and outreach behind a recently completed comprehensive zoning plan for the Barrier Reef. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

Steve Gallagher, NOAA Director of Budget, came for a site visit to Monterey and San Simeon on March 23. Senior staff briefed Steve on MBNMS priority programs and issues, including the management plan. This was followed by a Q and A session with all staff, and a boat tour into the Sanctuary. The second day, Steve visited the new San Simeon office and soon-to-be visitor center and Hearst Castle. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

March 7-11 was Safety Week, activities included the development and distribution of two new products - a flipcard emergency occupancy plan and a safety manual. Safety equipment inspections for the SHARKCAT, the dive locker and the Monterey office have been completed. On March 9, diver recovery/man overboard drills were conducted from the SHARKCAT, and optimal recovery techniques were perfected. An office fire drill was conducted on the 25th, and CPR training for all staff is scheduled for April. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

On April 2, Sean Morton and Deirdre Hall attended the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). Sean provided a presentation on three of the action plans related to coastal development that are proposed as part of the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR). The three action plans, Harbors and Dredge Disposal, Desalination, and Submerged Cables highlight coordination with other agencies in reviewing permit applications. Sean also provided an update on the status of the JMPR. For more information, contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217.

Managers and Operation Coordinators from GFNMS, CBNMS, and MBNMS met on April 4th to discuss plans for the vessel *FULMAR*, due online in March 2006. Dave Lott facilitated a number of topics including construction schedule, regional and site specific program

needs, FY06 and FY07 budget needs for critical and optional items, days at sea apportionment strategies and staffing. Agreement was reached on a variety of levels including establishing regional projects and management plan needs as priority missions, evaluating potential missions based on a standard set of criteria, and scheduling outreach efforts to local scientific institutions focused on potential funding and partnership opportunities. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

From April 4-7, Huff McGonigal attended the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting in Tacoma, Washington. The MBNMS has submitted a request to the PFMC to prepare draft Sanctuary fishing regulations as part of the proposed addition of Davidson Seamount to the Sanctuary. During the week Huff gave a series of presentations to Council subcommittees regarding the process for drafting regulations under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. On April 7th, Bill Douros addressed the PFMC proper explaining the initiative and answering questions. The PFMC unanimously passed a motion to support adding the Davidson Seamount to the MBNMS; supporting the comprehensive protection goals including prohibiting fishing at the seamount below 3,000 feet water depth; but asking that the fishing prohibition be adapted using authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. A PFMC response is expected by April 22nd. For more information, contact Huff McGonigal at (831) 647-4254.

Karen Grimmer and Dave Lott met on April 13 with USCG representatives from San Francisco and Monterey to discuss plans for the NOAA floating dock project. A number of topics were covered including security fencing, parking, specific orientation and placement of dock, piling integrity, access to water, sewage pumps, electric and IT interface, and communications. The meeting was to ensure that all parties are in agreement and address any potential security concerns. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

Bill Douros, Superintendent, attended the GFNMS Advisory Council meeting on April 18, 2005. Chris Coburn, MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program Director, will serve as Bill's alternate on the GFNMS Advisory Council. For more information, contact Bill Douros at (831) 647-4201.

On May 9, the MBNMS hosted the West Coast Regional Leadership Team who were in town discussing various aspects of FY06 AOP planning. The group agreed upon some important planning mechanisms to help the sites identify staff or otherwise accommodate workload demands from within and outside the region. For more information, contact Bill Douros at (831) 647-4201.

On May 6, Sean Morton represented the MBNMS at the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Committee (BSMAAC) meeting. The BSMAAC is an ad hoc group of federal, state, and local resource management agencies, political representatives, and citizen groups who meet to increase interagency communication and coordination. Sean discussed regional topics including the volunteer water quality monitoring event Snapshot Day, the recent and future cruises to the USS Macon, and the upcoming Advisory Council meeting in Big Sur this June. For more information, contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217.

On May 12, Sean Morton gave a presentation to approximately 25 students in a Hartnell College oceanography class. Sean spoke about the MBNMS and resource management issues facing the Sanctuary and the students asked questions about many of the issues being addressed in the management plan including wildlife disturbance, MPWC use and fishing. For more information, contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217.

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

The CD "Exploring the Davidson Seamount" won a Bronze Award in the Education CD-ROM category given each year by Horizon Interactive Awards. The CD was developed in a collaboration among the MBNMS, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and ad2, Inc., following a Sanctuary-led exploration to the Davidson Seamount in 2002. For more information, see <http://www.horizoninteractiveawards.com/winners.htm> or contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

MBNMS staff co-authored two papers on Davidson Seamount science in the recently published book, "Cold-water corals and ecosystems" edited by A. Friewald and J.M. Roberts and published by Springer-Verlag. The papers are titled, "Deep-sea corals and resource protection at the Davidson Seamount, California, U.S.A." and "Investigations of age and growth for three deep-sea corals from the Davidson Seamount off central California." For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

The west coast sanctuaries have entered into collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service on a project called CSCAPE (Collaborative Survey of Cetacean Abundance and the Pelagic Ecosystem). This effort will assess the abundance and distribution of marine mammals and characterize the pelagic ecosystem off the U.S. West Coast. The primary objective is to conduct a marine mammal assessment survey out to a distance of 300 nautical miles, with additional fine-scale sampling within the national marine sanctuaries. A secondary objective is to characterize the pelagic ecosystem through underway and station-based biological and



oceanographic sampling, seabird counts, and acoustic sampling. This effort will allow for comparisons among sanctuaries, and to compare sanctuaries to non-sanctuary areas of the coast. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.



NOAA vessel *McArthur II* in Monterey Bay.

**Photo Credit:** Nicole Capps

From April 27 to May 5, Jean de Marignac, SIMoN Scientist, led a team of 16 scientists on a research cruise aboard NOAA ship *McArthur II*. The project was a collaborative effort with the U.S. Geological Survey, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. A side-scanning sonar was used to characterize the seafloor of the continental shelf in the northern area of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A towed video camera sled was used to groundtruth the side-scanning sonar imagery and to further describe the benthic communities on the continental shelf. Also, there was a specific project to complete a side-scan survey at the wreck site of the rigid airship USS *MACON* and four *Curtiss F9C-2 Sparrowhawk* aircraft lost seventy years ago off Point Sur. The expedition is the first phase to determine the extent of the debris fields at the site. A second expedition will return in the fall of 2006 and utilize a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to conduct a systematic visual survey and the creation of a photomosaic of the site as well as videotape and still imagery of site features. The GFNMS used MBNMS hip days on the *McArthur II* from April 16 to April 27 to continue important research in the GFNMS and CBNMS. For more information, contact Jean deMarignac at (831) 647-4214.

## SIMoN

On March 12, SIMoN released the first annual 'SIMoN Says' publication to the public. This 8-page color publication details findings of monitoring efforts of a variety of Sanctuary habitats and issues. 'SIMoN Says' will be distributed with Ecosystem Observations and at upcoming events. For more information, contact Josh Pederson (831) 647-4260.

On March 25, Josh Pederson gave a talk at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories on the use of SIMoN as a tool for marine science graduate students and faculty. This presentation included introduction of the Joint Management Plan and the role of SIMoN within it. For more information, contact Josh Pederson (831) 647-4260.

On March 24, the regional ocean observing association, CeNCOOS, met in San Francisco for planning and prioritization. The Sanctuaries were represented by Andrew DeVogelaere and Dale Roberts (CBNMS). The Sanctuary program was well recognized during the day with a description of the Sanctuary West Coast Observatory Program, the SIMoN/CeNCOOS collaboration on a database for regional observatory project descriptions, and SIMoN/CIMT demonstration product development for end users. Decisions have to be made on whether the Sanctuary program can sign on to the CeNCOOS MOA, and there is a great need in CeNCOOS to develop end user collaborations and products. Sanctuary staff attended a follow up end user meeting on March 29. Part of the discussion focused on creating pilot projects to display selected data sets. For example, sea surface temperature for all fixed locations in the CeNCOOS region (from northern CA border to Point Conception near Santa Barbara) was one potential parameter that could be targeted by the data management and communications (DMAC) group. Web user interfaces, product look and design, and functionality will be driven by the end user committee and implemented by the DMAC. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

Upon request, MBNMS has provided KQED with two basic maps of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary for a potential TV pilot. For more information, contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248.

On March 22, staff dove offshore Steinbeck Plaza and Cannery Row. SIMoN divers make monthly dives to maintain NOAA and other certifications, check equipment, and develop skills. The specific goal of this pair of dives was to site locations with suitable reef habitats for a before-after control-impact (BACI) study involving the spread of the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* outside of the harbor. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

On March 23, MBNMS staff met with Dr. Don Croll at the Center for Ocean Health at UC Santa Cruz's Long Marine Lab. Dr. Croll is one of the principal investigators for the Center for Integrated Marine Technologies and is currently working with staff to develop GIS and other products related to marine mammal surveys conducted on a monthly basis in Monterey Bay. Sample products will be presented to the entire staff for comment once they have been created. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

On March 24, staff assisted research biologist Dr. Tim Herrlinger from UC Berkeley with collecting samples of the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* from within the Monterey harbor. Herrlinger will be placing the dried specimens on display during an upcoming science fair at UC Berkeley. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

On March 28, MBNMS staff assisted a volunteer diver with removal of the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* from within the Monterey harbor. H-tier, which is located adjacent to the sea wall of the marina proper, has had little effort associated with it in the last two years, in part because of on-going research by a Moss Landing Marine Lab graduate student at that location and in part to serve as a partial control for the removal effort. Most other portions of the marina area (about 85% total area) currently have little *Undaria*, but H-tier had fully grown and reproductive adults. As was noted in a recent newspaper article by the Monterey Herald, environmental conditions are likely contributing to the odd reduction in *Undaria* this spring, but the elevated growth at H-tier indicates manual removal efforts have reduced *Undaria* in managed areas. SIMoN staff also held *Undaria* removals on May 6th and 9th. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

A draft of "SIMoN 101: an introduction to the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network" is complete. This document is being used to describe available monitoring tools that could be implemented as SIMoN expands to the Gulf of the Farallones, Channel Islands, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

Through a contract managed by MBNMS and Gulf of Farallones staff, and funded by a headquarters mini-grant, Tenera Environmental Inc. recently compiled a GIS data set of coastal marine habitats in the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries. The GIS can now be used to search and retrieve information electronically across maps, complete spatial analyses, and query results. This will be a valuable baseline data set for assessing intertidal biological resources. For more information, or to obtain a copy of the products on DVD, contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248.

On April 18, staff tested the recently acquired Subal underwater camera housing and strobe. The housing, strobe and other accessories will be used to photograph quadrats in the Monterey Harbor to track changes in invertebrates living on the docks and pier pilings. In addition to the photoquadrats, photos and specimens of unknown species will be sent to taxonomic experts for identification. This is part of an introduced species monitoring program funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and SIMoN. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

On April 15, MBNMS staff met with Dr. Greg Cailliet and two of his graduate students at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Cailliet and his colleagues have been collecting benthic and midwater trawl data in Monterey Bay since the early 1970s. Data collected prior to 2005 are currently available on the SIMoN website as a downloadable Access file. The meeting focused on how to add new data to the archival database, update data sheets as new species are identified and collected, and creating a data entry manual for future contributors. These data will be critical for the MBNMS environmental assessment for marine reserves and for future studies on impacts of benthic trawling. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, at (831) 647-4222.

On April 22, MBNMS staff and Brian Johnson hosted a conference call with Sarah Fangman and Natalie Senyk from the Channel Islands NMS. MBNMS staff held a needs assessment for 20 high priority projects currently underway at CINMS. Sarah and Natalie provided feedback on the available types of data, GIS, and web products at CINMS. Staff will use this information to assess what kinds of equipment, software, and personnel are needed to effectively expand SIMoN to CINMS. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

On April 26 and 27, MBNMS staff attended the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's working group on monitoring in deep-sea marine protected areas. Held at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the CINMS hosted a focus group meeting to further develop the monitoring plan for the deep-water reserves. Attendants identified and prioritized requirements for monitoring, addressing key questions while designing projects and developing implementation strategies. One working group addressed questions associated with 1) changes within MPAs and 2) spillover effects, while the other working group focused on 3) habitat & ecosystem effects. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.



Steve Lonhart cataloging *Undaria* collected at the Monterey Harbor.

**Photo Credit:** Heather Cauldwell

On May 6, The SIMoN program accepted unsolicited pre-proposals up to \$15,000 to conduct monitoring within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Twice each year (May and November), SIMoN accepts pre-proposals that are not part of the regular request for proposal process. However, as the Joint Management Plan (JMP) moves forward, unsolicited proposals that meet specified needs within the JMP will rank higher than those that do not. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

On May 2, Josh Pederson gave a presentation to the IOOS National Federation of Regional Associations describing a web and database information management application being developed by SIMoN for the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS). The system is being considered as a model for use by other IOOS regions to track and share information on the ocean observing programs in their areas. Currently the system is under development and is scheduled to be completed by July. For more information, contact Josh Pederson at (831) 647-4260.

On May 5 and 6, Chad King and Josh Pederson visited the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Technical aspects of a current collaboration on interactive mapping services were reviewed, and future collaboration with NCDDC on west coast observatories were discussed. For more information, contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248 or Josh Pederson at (831) 647-4260.

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

The MBNMS received a permit application to develop two borehole drilling sites as part of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). The IODP is based in Washington DC and consists of a consortium of partners and scientists representing 20 countries and is funded in part by the National Science Foundation. These two borehole sites would consist of 5 science boreholes per site, for a total of 10 boreholes, approximately 350 meters deep. IODP would drill through the seafloor for the purpose of sampling the ocean crust, studying fluid circulation, microbiology, gas hydrates, earthquake processes, and conducting geophysical monitoring. The MBNMS met with the applicant, Texas A&M University on March 31st, to relay a series of environmental concerns associated with this project. The National Science Foundation, who is funding the project, is in the midst of developing a world-wide Environmental Assessment for areas including Ireland, Mexico and the MBNMS. Although certain acoustic impacts related to their drilling equipment are still unknown, NOAA Fisheries has already provided the project with a world-wide letter of concurrence for these operations. MBNMS staff sent a letter of concern on the adequacy of the environmental assessment to the National Science Foundation. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at (831) 647-4207

Cruise ship visits for 2005 have begun. On Sunday, March 13, Celebrity Cruises' *M/V Mercury* anchored off Monterey Harbor. The *M/V Mercury* is also scheduled to visit Monterey on Monday, March 21. A total of nine cruise ship visits is scheduled for this year by two cruise ship companies, Celebrity Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Lines. Both companies are required by the City of Monterey to agree in writing to withhold discharge of any material other than routine engine cooling water within MBNMS. For more information, contact Lisa deMarignac at (831) 647-4238.

On March 21, the MBNMS hosted a meeting of the Southern Monterey Bay Coastal Erosion and Armoring Workgroup. As an initial effort to implement the Coastal Armoring Action Plan, the Sanctuary convened the workgroup to develop a collaborative regional approach to address armoring and erosion issues in the Southern Monterey Bay. Participants include local researchers, consultants, elected officials, and representatives of various agencies and environmental organizations. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

MBNMS and the State Lands Commission sponsored two public hearings on April 7th on the Draft EIR/EIS for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's proposal to place a submarine cable on the floor of the Monterey Bay. The project, entitled the Monterey Accelerated Research System (MARS) Cabled Observatory, would provide power and communications to scientific instruments within the MBNMS. One member of the public provided comment at the second meeting. Comments on the document were accepted until April 26th. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at (831) 647-4207.

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) has been approved for a Prop 50 desalination grant from the State of California. The sanctuary and AMBAG worked in collaboration to design the feasibility study and develop and submit the application materials. The \$100,000 grant will go to fund a feasibility study that will assess the role of desalination in achieving a balanced water supply for the MBNMS region and conduct a comprehensive analysis of site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts of various potential desalination scenarios for the region. The results of the study will help us to gain a better understanding of the technical, design and siting options currently available for desalination plants, and how a variety of proven and emerging technologies might be used to minimize environmental impacts. The findings will be used to develop sanctuary guidelines for the siting of desalination plants within the MBNMS. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.



Holly Price and other members of the MBNMS team held the following meetings or activities related to the Marine Protected Areas process. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4252:

- On April 6, Holly Price met with Charlie Wahle from the Marine Protected Areas Center to discuss coordination and sharing of resources on Central Coast MPA issues, including GIS needs, MPA decision-support tools and links to the State's Marine Life Protection Act process.
- On April 20, MBNMS hosted a meeting with fishing representatives from the MBNMS Marine Protected Areas workgroup and the Sanctuary Advisory Council to reach agreement on design of socioeconomic groundtruthing interviews with the fishing community regarding spatial patterns of fishing within the sanctuary. Representatives from the State's Marine Life Protection Act process also attended, as the interviews are intended to be a coordinated effort, which will provide socioeconomic information to both the Federal and State processes. The basic format of the interviews and spatial displays were agreed upon, and the fishing representatives agreed to initiate the discussions with other fishermen to set up the interviews. We are continuing discussions with the State to set up a contract to begin the work.
- On April 22, MBNMS resource protection and research staff met with NMFS Pacific Fisheries Environmental Lab (PFEL) to define an approach to characterizing upwelling plumes and fronts for the purposes of mapping habitat categories to be considered by the MBNMS Marine Protected Areas workgroup. At our request, PFEL has begun and will continue analyzing 20 years of historical records to map the typical locations of these features in the MBNMS and their variability over time, and has also developed an automated "movie" of historical variation in upwelling. These products from one of our NOAA partners will be completed by mid-summer and will be used both in evaluating potential locations for MPAs and become part of the SIMoN website.
- On April 27, the team met with representatives from the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative and the MPA center. The Department of Fish and Game will be evaluating one section of coast at a time. The first section to be considered runs from Pigeon Point, to Point Conception and encompasses a large portion of the MBNMS. The Sanctuary and the MLPA initiative are looking for means to make the efforts under the MLPA complementary with the MBNMS' own consideration of MPAs. Areas of cooperation identified include joint funding, data sharing, and project staffing.
- A contract to provide non-consumptive use data relevant to MPA evaluations was finalized via the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and the organization Natural Equity. The study will include focus groups with users this summer to collect spatial information on ocean access and use by divers, kayakers, whale watching boats, wildlife observers from shore, and tidepool visitors. This is a collaborative effort between the MBNMS and the state's Marine Life Protection Act to provide socioeconomic information to MPA evaluation and design processes, and has been funded by the Marine Protected Areas Center.

## Water Quality

The MBNMS has issued three authorizations via our Memorandum of Agreement for water quality with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. These authorizations were issued to the City of Santa Cruz, the County of Santa Cruz, and Big Basin State Park in Santa Cruz for discharge of treated sewage. These facilities are renewing their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. In all cases, the MBNMS asked for better coordination regarding spills, and encouraged sound management of the facilities to ensure resource protection. For more information contact Deirdre Hall, at (831) 647- 4207

On March 23 and April 29, the MBNMS hosted meetings of the Agricultural Water Quality Alliance (AWQA). AWQA serves as the steering committee for implementation of the sanctuary's Agricultural and Rural Lands Plan that is directing implementation of management measures in several thousand square miles of watershed that drain to the MBNMS. the workshop analyzed both progress and barriers to implementation over the past 5 years, and began looking towards priorities for the next 5 years. For more information, contact Bridget Dobrowski at (831) 647-4219.

On March 23, Donna Meyers, Regional Water Quality Coordinator, met with Gulf of the Farallones resource management staff and Manager Maria Brown to discuss water quality issues and potential assistance items for the Gulf of the Farallones. For more information, contact Donna Meyers at (831) 420-1609.

On March 30, Bridget Hoover, Network Coordinator, attended an informational meeting regarding a groundwater plume of trichloroethene (TCE) migrating from the former Fort Ord Military base west toward the MBNMS. The Army Corps of Engineers has

been conducting monitoring and cleanup at the base for the past twenty years, however in December the extent of the plume was discovered to be much greater than was originally thought. A consulting firm has been hired to determine the extent of the plume and to conduct remediation, and the MBNMS will continue to monitor their efforts. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover (831) 883-9303.

California Legislators recently crafted a package of water quality legislation. The bills seek to ban discharges from cargo vessels in state waters, develop a funding source to address automotive impacts on water quality, create a state-level enforcement officer, expand permit fees for polluters, and place restrictions on the use of waivers in lieu of permits. Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, and Donna Meyers, along with staff from the Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District, traveled to Sacramento to discuss these bills and their relationship to ongoing activities with State Legislators and their staff. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

During the week of April 4, Bridget Dobrowski, Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator, gave two presentations on the MBNMS Agriculture and Rural Lands Plan to a total of 75 farmers in Paso Robles and Gilroy, as part of the University of California Cooperative Extension's Farm Water Quality Planning Short Course. For more information, contact Bridget Dobrowski at (831) 647-4219.

On April 11, Bridget Hoover gave a presentation about the Sanctuary and Citizen Monitoring Network to a GIS class at Monterey Peninsula College. The class chooses a project each semester in which to do a GIS project. They chose the Urban Watch program and will be developing both a poster and digital product to be used for outreach and reporting. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On April 12 and 13, Bridget Hoover attended the Alliance for Coastal Monitoring Technologies workshop in Seaside, CA. The focus of the workshop was on development of metal sensors and analyzers for freshwater and marine environments. Bridget gave a presentation on the Sanctuary and Citizen Monitoring Network with an emphasis on the First Flush program which monitors for copper, zinc, and lead. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On April 13, Chris Coburn provided oral comments before the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission in support of a countywide permit coordination program for environmental projects. The permitting process is often a major roadblock to landowners who want to conduct environmental projects. Recognizing this burden, the MBNMS's Agricultural and Rural Lands Plan identified the need for a streamlined permitting process. The program in Santa Cruz was modeled after a program in the Elkhorn Slough area, developed in partnership with the MBNMS. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

The May 1, 2004 Snapshot Day report was publicly released on May 2, 2005. In summary, 168 sites were monitored by 201 volunteers for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity, E. coli, orthophosphate and nitrate. Eighty-seven sites had no exceedence for any of the water quality objectives. Orthophosphate and E. coli were the two parameters that most often exceeded their water quality objectives at 24% of the sites. For more information contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On April 28, Chris Coburn manned a Water Quality Protection Program booth along with staff from the Gulf of the Farallones NMS at the Half Moon Bay Water Forum. Sponsored by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Coastside County Water District and the Sewer Authority Mid Coastside. The forum, attended by 150 individuals, focused on the future of the Pilarcitos Watershed, which reaches the MBNMS in Half Moon Bay. Facing the constant reality of a limited potable water supply on the Coast, watershed stakeholders spent Thursday contemplating water conservation and the use of recycled water for crops and landscaping purposes as a means to offset current diversions from the creek. For more information contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On May 7, over 150 volunteers monitored the water quality of approximately 170 sites on streams and creeks flowing into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary during the 6th Annual Snapshot Day event. State Assemblyman John Laird and Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, spoke to the volunteers at the Monterey hub while the Mayor of Santa Cruz, Mike Rotkin, addressed the volunteers in Santa Cruz. Several staff from the Sanctuary and Foundation participated in this event, as well as staff from the GFNMS association. News Channel KION-TV filmed volunteers in action and made it the top news story at 6:30, 10 and 11 PM. KCBA-TV also covered the event. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On May 6, Donna Meyers participated in a reconnaissance tour of Estero Americano with resource protection, education, and research staff from the Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS). The Estero is a focus area for water quality planning for the GFNMS and is located west of the City of Petaluma in the northern portion of the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Donna Meyers at (831) 420-1609.

On May 12, Donna Meyers presented at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Training Program Workshop entitled "Ecology and Conservation of Coastal California's Riparian Areas." The workshop was held at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and had approximately 100 participants. Her talk focused on the ecology of riparian areas and their role in protecting water quality and watershed health. For more information, contact Donna Meyers at (831) 420-1609.

## **Enforcement**

Scott Kathey attended the Coast Guard's annual District 11 Living Marine Resources and Marine Protected Species Conference in Alameda on March 15 to discuss joint NOAA/USCG enforcement interests and support opportunities. Approximately 30 attendees from the USCG and Federal and State resource trustee agencies were present. Scott highlighted MBNMS enforcement concerns for which USCG assistance would be helpful. The MBNMS will explore access to surveillance information regularly compiled by the USCG to monitor the patterns of various activities within the Sanctuary. The MBNMS will also explore improved utilization of USCG field assets to improve Sanctuary enforcement efforts. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On March 15, Scott Kathey met with representatives of the USCG Marine Safety Office, San Francisco to discuss improved notification, coordination, and collaboration between the MBNMS and USCG during vessel casualty incidents. Scott clarified the Sanctuary's mandates and priorities regarding fuel and debris removal and clarified appropriate channels for dialogue. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On March 27, a 40' salmon troller sank 6 nm WNW of Piedras Blancas in 100-300 fathoms with 225 gallons of diesel aboard. There were no human injuries or fatalities. NOAA OLE is investigating. For more information, contact Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On March 28, a 26' sailboat washed ashore at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River after parting its mooring off Santa Cruz. No fuel or motor were aboard. There were no human injuries or fatalities. The boat grounded outside MBNMS boundaries. For more information, contact Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On March 30, a sailboat caught fire off the Pajaro River, forcing two people into the water. The vessel was towed out of the surfline by two State Park MPWC and taken in tow to Monterey by the USCG. There were no human injuries or fatalities. NOAA OLE is investigating. For more information, contact Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

Various insurers associated with the sunken vessel *M/V Albion* have united to hire a salvage firm to survey the vessel, remove the estimated 1500 gallons of fuel aboard, and salvage the hull. Survey operations should begin in June. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On April 1, a 30,000 raw sewage spill occurred at Pebble Beach due to the puncture of a sewage line by a work crew. The sewage flowed to the sea. NOAA OLE is investigating. For more information, contact Officer Bob Yerena at (831) 647-4203.

On April 6, an 850-foot container ship was observed transiting within 5 nm of Point Sur, some 10 miles inshore of the IMO recommended vessel traffic lane. MBNMS identified the vessel and the USCG notified the vessel owner of non-compliance with IMO safety recommendations. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On April 8, a 25-foot sailboat parted its mooring east of Point Santa Cruz and drifted ashore in front of the Boardwalk. No passengers or fuel were onboard. The vessel went aground just outside Sanctuary boundaries. The vessel was insured, and plans were implemented for its salvage. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On April 11, Scott Kathey and Michele Roest met with Nick Franco, Superintendent, San Luis Obispo Coast District, State Parks to discuss goals and operational issues for cooperative enforcement support to the MBNMS by State Parks Rangers in the southern region of the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On April 10, a small sailboat operator discharged his mast, sheets, and rigging into Sanctuary waters off Santa Cruz after experiencing an equipment failure. The responsible party paid NOAA a \$5000 settlement amount for the discharge. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

## **EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

On March 18, a draft of the Long Range Interpretive Plan for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail was released. The Long Range Interpretive Plan was prepared to guide development of interpretive features for the portion of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail from Seacliff State Beach located in southern Santa Cruz County to the City of Pacific Grove in Monterey County. After a comprehensive and thorough review of the Plan by numerous partners, the Plan will be formatted, printed and distributed to each jurisdiction around the Monterey Bay Peninsula. For more information, contact Stacia Fletcher at (831) 420-1630.

On March 22, Dawn Hayes and Michelle Templeton participated in a NOAA 312 Review of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and its education programming and partnerships. Topics commented on include the MERITO program partnership, involvement with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Sanctuary Education Panel, BWET grants and a variety of smaller partnership programs. For more information, contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

On March 31, Education Specialist Stacia Fletcher made a presentation on the proposed MBNMS Visitor Center to the Santa Cruz Convention and Visitors Council Board. For more information, contact Stacia Fletcher at (831) 420-1630.

On April 11, Dawn Hayes, represented the MBNMS on the Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee, comprised of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), 8 municipalities, Santa Cruz and Monterey County Transportation Agencies and County staff, State and Regional Parks. The alignment of the proposed trail is of key concern and railroad right of way is key to this project. Congressman Sam Farr has earmarked \$6M for this project through the T-Bill, which AMBAG administers. For more information, contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

## **MERITO**

On April 6, Michelle Templeton submitted a proposal through Michiko Martin to NOAA to expand MERITO curriculum to other NOAA offices including fisheries and weather. The proposal included a plan for a regional approach to managing the existing MERITO programs at MBNMS and CINMS and expanding to GFNMS and CBNMS. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

During the week of March 14, MERITO staff and intern presented to 78 English language learners through the Watsonville Adult Education program. The presentation focused on water quality issues and the Davidson Seamount and was followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration addressing urban runoff. Participants were provided free passes to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On March 14 and 15, Michelle Templeton met with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary manager, education coordinators and general staff to review and present the preliminary results of a community needs assessment for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. This completes the first phase in expansion of the MERITO program to the Channel Islands region. With community needs very similar to those of the MBNMS, the CINMS will begin adapting, expanding and implementing the new and existing MERITO programs and materials this fall. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On March 29 and April 21, MERITO staff and intern presented to 21 English language learners through the Salinas and Watsonville Adult Education programs. The presentations focused on water quality issues and the Davidson seamount and was followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration addressing urban runoff. Participants were provided free passes to the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. For more information, contact: Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

On April 1, MERITO staff hosted ten youth enrolled in the MERITO Watershed Academy after-school program at Seaside's Salvation Army. Activities included water quality testing at a local wetland. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4215.

During the weeks of April 11, April 18 and April 25, MERITO staff hosted 95 youth enrolled in the MERITO Watershed Academy after-school program at Los Arboles Elementary, Kammann Elementary, Del Rey Woods and the RISE Program. Activities included a Monterey Bay Aquarium habitat exploration, water quality monitoring, sand crab monitoring, a beach clean up, tidepool monitoring, a mudflat lab exploration, and storm drain stenciling in the City of Seaside with the participation of Lisa Emanuelson.. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.



On May 1, Twenty-six community members from Santa Cruz, Watsonville and Salinas participated in the Spanish, bilingual “Tidepool Day” focused on natural history and conservation of tidepool ecosystems of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Participants learned about tidepool etiquette and wildlife viewing guidelines before exploring the intertidal zone with sanctuary guides.

On April 30, MERITO participated in the first annual California State University Monterey Bay Recruitment in Science Education (RISE) Science Day. The event provided a series of hands-on science lab sessions, science careers and preparation for college entrance for 30 RISE participants. MERITO sessions were focused on water quality testing of local creeks and ponds, urban runoff and marine science careers.

On May 2, Michelle Templeton hosted a session, in partnership with the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR), at the National Association of Recreation and Resource Planners (NARRP) Conference in Sacramento. The session provided a case study on the MERITO program and its successful community based approach to multicultural outreach. Staff from both the MBNMS and ESNERR gave examples of strategies used by MERITO to build opportunities for underrepresented audiences and participate in reserve and park activities. Participants included representatives from National and State Parks programs, the Forest Service, City Parks, private parks, city planners and recreation leaders across the nation. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

During the week of May 2, MERITO staff hosted 36 youth enrolled in the MERITO Watershed Academy after-school program at Kamman Elementary, Los Arboles Middle School, the Salvation Army Youth Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Activities included a mudflat lab exploration, and storm drain stenciling in the City of Salinas and tidepool exploration lead by Lisa Emanuelson.

On May 6, Michelle Templeton and Alison Hopcroft presented MERITO's Spanish-bilingual children's book, *Coralito's Bay*, to the Monterey County Office of Education Migrant Education Coordinating Advisory Council. Council members representing the migrant programs throughout districts in the county each received a copy of the book and school library sets have been requested for English language reading programs.

On May 7, MERITO staff and interns began demographic interviews at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. This is the last of a four part series conducted over the past 2 years to better understand the demographic visitor-ship of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

On May 8, MERITO led a Spanish-bilingual "Slough Hike" and crab monitoring activity as part of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's annual Mother's Day Event. The overall event was well attended, despite rain, and 24 community members participated in MERITO's invasive European green crab monitoring and bilingual, interpretive hike highlighting the sanctuary and slough. Issues addressed included urban and agricultural runoff, wildlife disturbance and invasive species prevention.

The May/June 2005 issue of NOAA Coastal Services Newsletter featured an article on the MERITO program. The story included information on MERITO programs such as the Watershed Academy afterschool program, the Adult Education program, community field experiences the Spanish-bilingual children's book, *Coralito's Bay* and the expansion of MERITO to the CINMS.

During the week of May 9, MERITO staff and interns hosted 20 youth enrolled in the MERITO Watershed Academy after-school program at Kamman Elementary and the Salvation Army Youth Center. Activities included a mudflat lab exploration and sand crab monitoring. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On May 15, MERITO intern, Luis Rodriguez, conducted demographic interviews at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in an effort to better understand its demographic visitor-ship at partner sites. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

On April 9 and 10, Lisa Emanuelson, Education and Outreach Specialist, and Bridget Hoover, Network Coordinator, manned a booth with the Stormwater Education Alliance at the Good Old Days festival in Pacific Grove, CA, which was attended by an estimated 20,000 people. Coincidentally, while educating people about urban runoff, staff were notified of a bright blue substance flowing towards a storm drain several blocks away. Staff notified the fire department who responded to the incident by containing the substance and notifying public works who cleaned up the spill preventing it from reaching the MBNMS. The nature of the substance was not determined. This event highlights the role of citizens in detecting storm drain pollution and the need for on-call, trained responders. For more information, contact Lisa Emanuelson (831) 521-9512.

On April 23, Bridget Dobrowski, Lisa Emanuelson, Seaberry Nachbar and MERITO intern Ricardo Lopez staffed a booth at the wet and soggy Earthbound Farm Earth Day event. Even with the cold and rain, turn out at the event was very good and many people stopped at the MBNMS booth to learn about storm water with the watershed model, the JMPR and to pick up free posters. For more information, contact Lisa Emanuelson (831) 521-9512



MERITO intern, Luis Rodriguez, demonstrates the watershed model at the Día del Niño/Día de la Tierra celebration in Watsonville.

**Photo Credit:** Michelle Templeton

On April 23, MERITO participated in an Earth Day celebration at Natividad Creek Park in Salinas. Staff hosted an activity booth and took part in a native plant restoration and a creek clean-up. Over 75 community members engaged in conservation activities. The event was coordinated by California State University Monterey Bay's Return of the Natives program. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On April 24, Nicole Capps and MERITO staff hosted an activity booth at the third annual Día del Niño/Día de la Tierra (Day of the Child/Earth Day) celebration at Ramsay Park in Watsonville. Groups such as the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Watsonville Nature Center, and various local and state health and youth organizations provided activities for over 4,000 community members celebrating our environment and our children. The event is coordinated by the City of Watsonville. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On April 29, MERITO staff hosted an activity booth at the annual Día del Niño (Day of the Child) celebration at Alianza Bilingual Charter School in Watsonville. Various local and state health and youth organizations provided activities for over 400 bilingual students and families celebrating the environment and the children.

## SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE

“Clean streets, Clean waters” by Ryan Masters, Monterey County Weekly, 3/17/05

“Depot Park Opens in Santa Cruz” by Tarmo Hannula, The Register-Pajaronian, 3/16/05

“Top 11 Endangered and Threatened Habitats and Species in the Monterey Bay Region”, Santa Cruz Metro, vol.11 #48, March 31-April

“In the water: Ghost Tree a mystery no more” by Gwen Mickelson, Santa Cruz Sentinel, 4/17/05

“Snapshot Day seeks volunteers to assess water quality” Monterey County Herald, 4/17/05

“Whale tales: Sea life stars in the living theater of Monterey Bay” by Allen O. Pierleoni, Sacramento Bee, 1/30/05

“Hikers’ haven to nearly double: Moonstone Beach boardwalk to benefit from \$446,000 in grants and donations” by Kathe Tanner, SLO Tribune, 4/25/05

“Offshore-fishing managers want Davidson Seamount west of Cambria added to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary” by Kathe Tanner, SLO Tribune, 4/25/05

“Monterey Bay Kayaks donates proceeds from Paddlefest to: BAY NET-Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary volunteer network” PRWeb, 4/26/05

“Coastside water summit today” by Michelle Durand, San Mateo Daily Journal, 4/28/05

Editorial Opinion of The Tribune: Protect seamount and our fishermen, 4/30/05

“Regional water quality survey planned Saturday” Monterey County Herald, 5/3/05

“Monterey Bay Paddlefest” San Jose Mercury New, 5/6/05

“News briefs from California’s Central Coast” Associated Press, 5/6/05

“EPA seizes district records; An agent says the agency is looking into allegations about water quality issues” by Kathe Tanner, San Luis Obispo Tribune

“Celebrity chefs join the Monterey Bay Aquarium in celebrating sustainable cuisine” by Marietta Nelson, Monterey County Herald, 5/11/05

“Salmon fishermen hurting; Restrictions set to heal a river in Oregon impact local waters” by Ryan Masters, 5/12/05

“Storm water management project on hold; Water board agrees plan is short on specifics” by Larry Parsons, 5/13/05

## **WEB SITE (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)**

### **Recent Updates**

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

- 2004 First Flush Report  
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/monitoringnetwork/events.html#ff2004>
- Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA)

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/awqa/welcome.html>

- Ecosystem Observations

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/reports/ecobs.html>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.  
Comments and suggestions can be sent to [andrew.white@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.white@noaa.gov).*

## **FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES**

### **Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries**

<http://www.ocean.com/Library/Encyclopedia/>

### **NOS Data Explorer**

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/dataexplorer/welcome.html>

### **SIMON**

[www.mbnms-simon.org](http://www.mbnms-simon.org)

### **National Marine Sanctuary Program**

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

### **NOAA Publications Library**

[www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/library.html](http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/library.html)

### **National Estuarine Research Reserve System**

<http://nerrs.noaa.gov/>

### **NOAA Ocean Explorer**

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

### **National Data Buoy Center**

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

### **National Ocean Service**

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

### **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

## **CALENDAR 2005**

<b>JUNE</b>	
June 4	Urban Watch Training for Scott's Valley, Location TBD
June 12	MERITO Hike Day, Elkhorn Slough NERR, 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
June 21	CWG meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
<b>JULY</b>	
July 3-24	McArthur II Cruise
July 8	RAP meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Location TBD



July 18	SEP meeting, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBD
July 19	CWG meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
<b>AUGUST</b>	
Aug 5	Advisory Council Meeting in Cambria
Aug 12	RAP meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Location TBD
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Sept 1-17	<i>Shearwater</i> Cruise
Sept 9	RAP meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Location TBD
Sept 17	California Coastal Cleanup Day, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sept 18	MBNMS' 13 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Sept 18	MERITO Kayak Day, 12:30 p.m.-4p.m.
Sept 18	World Monitoring Day
Sept 19	SEP meeting, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBD
Sept 20	CWG meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
Sept 20	First Flush Training for Monterey, Pacific Grove and Seaside, 6 p.m., MBNMS office
Sept 21	First Flush Training for Santa Cruz, Capitola and Live Oaks
Sept 24	First Flush Field Training and Monitoring Event
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Oct 7	Advisory Council Meeting in Watsonville
Oct 16	MERITO Tidepool Day, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., ESNERR
Oct 18	CWG meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Nov 4	RAP Meeting, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Hopkins Marine Station
Nov 6	MERITO Hike Day, 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., ESNERR
Nov 15	CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District Meeting Room
Nov 21	SEP Meeting, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Location TBD
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Dec 9	MBNMS/GFNMS Joint Advisory Council Meeting-San Mateo County

**\*\*During 2005, the BTAP will be meeting on an as needed basis\*\***

## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html>

## The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:  
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups:  
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html>.

## MBNMS Staff

**William Douros** – *Sanctuary Superintendent*  
**Holly Price** – Resource Protection Coordinator  
**Andrew DeVogelaere** – Research Coordinator  
**Erica Burton** – Research Assistant  
**Steve Lonhart** – SIMoN Scientist  
**Jean de Marignac** – SIMoN Scientist  
**Chad King** – SIMoN Data Analyst  
**Josh Pederson** – SIMoN Outreach Specialist  
**Dawn Hayes** – Education & Outreach Coordinator  
**Liz Love** – Education Specialist  
**Lisa Emanuelson** – Resource Issue Ed Specialist  
**Michelle Templeton** – MERITO Program Manager  
**Cristy Cassel** – Bilingual Education Specialist  
**Michele Roest** – Education & Outreach Specialist, San Simeon Office  
**Stacia Fletcher** – Education & Outreach Specialist, Santa Cruz Office  
**Scott Kathey** – Regulatory Coordinator  
**Deirdre Hall** – Permit Coordinator  
**Brad Damitz** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Huff McGonigal** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Bridget Dobrowski** – Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator  
**Chris Coburn** – Water Quality Protection Program Director  
**Donna Meyers** – Regional Water Quality Coordinator  
**Bridget Hoover** – Water Quality Network Coordinator  
**Lisa de Marignac** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Karen Grimmer** – Program Operations Coordinator  
**Sean Morton** – Management Plan Coordinator  
**Paul Chetirkin** – Assistant Management Plan Coordinator  
**Raymond Chisolm** – Program Specialist  
**Rachel Saunders** – Community & Public Relations Coordinator  
**Nicole Capps** – Advisory Council Coordinator & Management Support Specialist  
**Heather Cauldwell** – Administrative Assistant  
**Andrew White** – Network Manager



## - Contact Information -

### Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone (831) 647-4201  
Fax (831) 647-4250